66. The method of claim 59 wherein the first prosthesis is a first bifurcated prosthesis and the first tubular body portion is a main portion of the first bifurcated prosthesis.

67. The method of claim 66 wherein the second prosthesis is a second bifurcated prosthesis and the second tubular body portion is a main portion of the second bifurcated prosthesis.

68. The method of claim 67 wherein the first bifurcated prosthesis comprises a first leg and an aperture in place of a second leg.

69. The method of claim 68 wherein the second prosthesis comprises a first leg and an aperture in place of a second leg, and wherein the first leg of the second bifurcated prosthesis inserts through the aperture of the first bifurcated prosthesis and the first leg of the first prosthesis inserts through the aperture of the second bifurcated prosthesis.

70. The method of claim 66 wherein the second tubular body portion is positioned external to the first tubular body portion.

71. The method of claim 66 wherein the second tubular body portion is positioned internal to the first tubular body portion.

REMARKS

Prior to the present Office Action claims 1-34 were pending, with claims 3, 13, 14, 18-20 and 22-34 being withdrawn as directed to non-elected species, leaving claims 1-2, 4-12, 15-17 and 21 pending. Claims 1-34 are canceled herein, and claims 35-71 are added and remain pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 15-17 as improperly dependent, rejected claims 4-12 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite, requested that Applicant correct the use of the trademark DACRON in the specification, and rejected claims 1-2, 4-12, 15-17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by White et al. (WO 95/08966).

By the present amendment, Applicants have cancelled previously pending claims 1-2, 4-12, 15-17 and 21 (and the withdrawn claims) without prejudice and have entered new claims 35-71. The newly submitted claims are fully supported by the specification and do not represent new matter. All newly submitted claims are directed to previously elected Species V of Fig. 12, as requested by the Examiner. However, once any generic claims are allowed, Applicants reserve the right to add any appropriate dependent claims directed to other species identified by the Examiner, in particular, but not limiting, to species IV shown in Figs 8-11. Currently, at least claims 35 and 59 are generic to all of the species and many other claims are generic to at least several various species.

All references to DACRON in the specification were corrected, as requested by the Examiner.

Further, newly submitted claims 35-71 render moot all 35 U.S.C. 112 objections and rejections.

Finally, the new claims are believed allowable over the previously cited reference WO 95/08966. Specifically, WO 95/08966 does not disclose a double-layered intaluminal graft as in the present application and as claimed. More specifically, WO 95/08966 does not disclose or suggest an intraluminal device with first and second prostheses each having a tubular graft body portion, such that at least a majority of the length of the first tubular graft body portion overlaps with at least a majority of the length of the second tubular graft body portion, as in claim 35. Neither does WO 95/08966 discloses or suggests an intraluminal device as in claim 54, or a method of positioning a first prosthesis and a second prosthesis in a vessel of a patient's body as in claim 59. Furthermore, numerous dependent claims herein recite features that are not present in nor suggested by WO 95/08966.

CERTIFIED COPY OF THE FOREIGN PRIORITY DOCUMENT

At the Examiner's request a Certified Copy of the Foreign Priority Document is enclosed with this communication.

OATH/DECLARATION

A new Declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) is enclosed herewith, as requested by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 25, 2003

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APPENDIX – VERSION MARKED TO SHOW CHANGES

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

From page 2, line 30, through page 3, line 4, amend the paragraph as follows:

In a first aspect, the present invention consists in an intraluminal device comprising a first tubular graft body and at least a second tubular graft body, each tubular graft body having a length and a first and at least a second end wherein when the intraluminal device is disposed within a vessel of a patient, a majority of the length of the second tubular graft body overlaps with a majority of the length of the first tubular graft body.

From page 5, line 17, through page 6, line 3, amend the paragraph as follows:

In another embodiment, the first and at least second tubular graft bodies are circumferentially reinforced along their length by a series of wires or one continuous wires woven into the material of the tubular graft bodies such that the wires are not exposed at either the outer or the inner surface of the tubular graft bodies. Such an enclosed wireform arrangement is particularly useful in one embodiment of the invention wherein the tubular graft body is inserted into the vessel of a patient and caused to expand within the vessel of the patient by way of an inflatable balloon. In a further embodiment wherein the tubular graft body is adapted to self expand without the need for a balloon it is not required that the wires be entirely enclosed and indeed it is preferred that at least a portion of the wires are positioned on either the outside or the inside surfaces of the tubular graft bodies. Like wise, it is known to artisans that, for example, any techniques in the commonly owned or assigned patents and patent applications such as interweaving of wireforms having predetermined or pre-ordained spatial orientations made of, for example, [Elgiloy ®] ELGILOY wireforms with DACRON [Dacron ®] grafts (available from [Baxter] Edwards Lifesciences Corporation, Vascular Systems Division, Irvine, California) or a PTFE grafts ([Baxter Healthcare Corporation] Edwards Lifesciences Corporation, Laguna Hills, California) and Nitinol™ wireforms (Memry Metal, California) are equally applicable and work well within human patients.

On page 8, lines 13-15, amend the paragraph as follows:

In a further embodiment, the at least second tubular graft is preferably formed of a more durable and thick material than that of the first tubular graft body, for example [Dacron ®] DACRON material or polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE).

On page 9, lines 9-12, amend the paragraph as follows:

[In alternately, yet] Alternatively, in yet still another embodiment, the second tubular graft body is circumferentially reinforced by a series of separate, spaced apart malleable wires along only a portion of its length, see for example United States Patent No. 6,071,307 [Serial No. 09/163,831] which has been expressly incorporated by reference herein.

On page 14, lines 21-28, amend the paragraph as follows:

--Once the first graft 11 is in position, the second graft 12 is similarly introduced into the aorta 14 by way of insertion of a catheter through the femoral artery 18 of a patient. In the depicted embodiment, the second graft 12 is of the "trouser graft" type, that is, it has a main body 24 and a bifurcated portion 25 and is made from woven [Dacron®] DACRON material. The catheter is introduced into the lumen of the first graft 11 and the second graft 12 inflated by way of a balloon such that the main body 24 expands and abuts against the inner facing surface of the first graft 11. The bifurcated portion 25 extends [in a longitudinal plane] longitudinally from the other end 26 of the first graft 11 into the lumen of the aorta 14.--

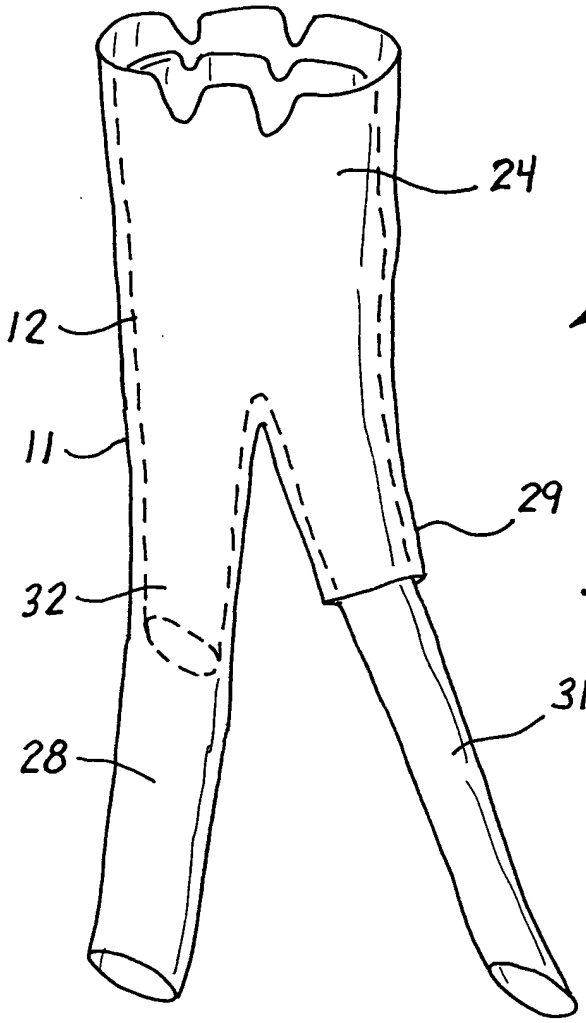

Fig. 11

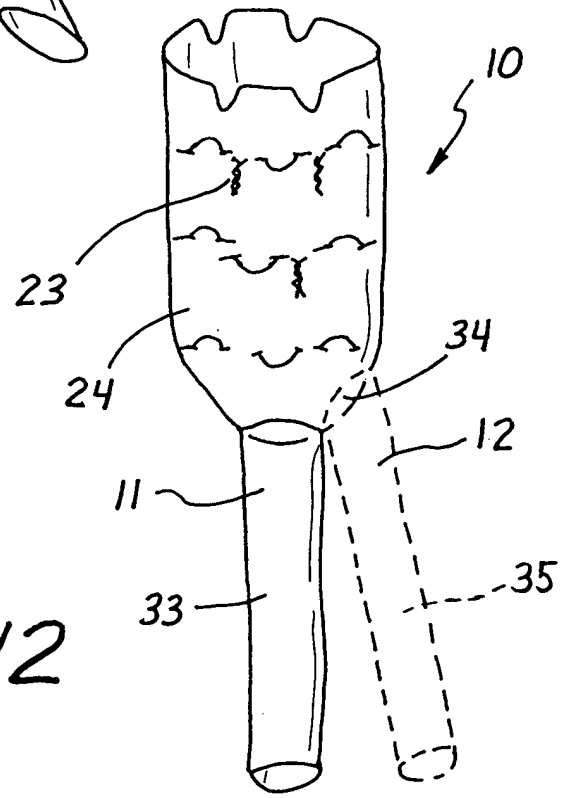

Fig. 12